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SOLDIER
GENEVA

A Soviet army defector says he fears he may be abducted by the KGB secret police, and has appealed to the Swiss authorities to guarantee his security.

In a Swiss television interview last night, Yuri Povarnitsin, 23, said he believed a recent Soviet radio broadcast was "preparing the ground for the KGB to kidnap me and take me to the Soviet Union, to imprison me for long years and to shoot me."

The broadcast he referred to accused the CIA of pursuing Soviet army defectors to try to extort anti-Soviet statements from them.

Povarnitsin opted to remain in Switzerland instead of returning home last May at the end of two years' internment. He had been captured in Afghanistan by anti-Soviet rebels who later released him into Swiss custody through the International Red Cross.

Povarnitsin, who works in Geneva, said he refused categorically to return to the Soviet Union. "If ever under any circumstances I should appear at the Soviet Embassy it will be only under constraint or under the effect of drugs," he said.

He said he hoped the Swiss authorities would guarantee his physical security, and grant him political refugee status.

Two Soviet soldiers released from Afghan guerrilla captivity are still interned in Switzerland out of an original total of 11. Six returned home at the end of their terms.